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# TWO NOBLE LIVES

By

LAURA E. RICHARDS

## Samuel Gridley Howe
## · Julia Ward Howe · ·

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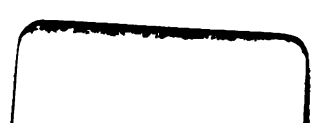

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# TWO NOBLE LIVES

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# TWO NOBLE LIVES

SAMUEL GRIDLEY HOWE
JULIA WARD HOWE

BY THEIR DAUGHTER
LAURA E. RICHARDS

BOSTON
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TO

My Grandchildren

THIS STORY OF THE LIVES OF THEIR

GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

## NOTE

This little book, adapted in part from an earlier volume, is designed for use in schools. It is hoped that the story of these two lives, thus briefly and simply told, may find its way into the hands of many children.

## *THE HERO*

### (*Dr. S. G. Howe*)

*"O for a knight like Bayard,*
*Without reproach or fear;*
*My light glove on his casque of steel,*
*My love-knot on his spear!*

*"O for the white plume floating*
*Sad Zutphen's field above, —*
*The lion heart in battle,*
*The woman's heart in love!*

*"O that man once more were manly,*
*Woman's pride, and not her scorn;*
*That once more the pale young mother*
*Dared to boast 'a man is born!'*

*"But, now life's slumberous current*
*No sun-bowed cascade wakes;*
*No tall, heroic manhood*
*The level dulness breaks.*

*"O for a knight like Bayard,*
*Without reproach or fear!*
*My light glove on his casque of steel,*
*My love-knot on his spear!"*

*Then I said, my own heart throbbing*
*To the time her proud pulse beat,*
*"Life hath its regal natures yet,—*
*True, tender, brave, and sweet!*

*"Smile not, fair unbeliever!*
*One man at least I know*
*Who might wear the crest of Bayard*
*Or Sidney's plume of snow.*

*"Once, when over purple mountains*
*Died away the Grecian sun,*
*And the far Cyllenian ranges*
*Paled and darkened, one by one,—*

*"Fell the Turk, a bolt of thunder,*
*Cleaving all the quiet sky,*
*And against his sharp steel lightnings*
*Stood the Suliote but to die.*

*"Woe for the weak and halting!*
*The crescent blazed behind*
*A curving line of sabres,*
*Like fire before the wind!*

*"Last to fly and first to rally,*
*Rode he of whom I speak,*
*When, groaning in his bridle-path,*
*Sank down a wounded Greek.*

*"With the rich Albanian costume*
*Wet with many a ghastly stain,*
*Gazing on earth and sky as one*
*Who might not gaze again!*

*"He looked forward to the mountains,*
*Back on foes that never spare,*
*Then flung him from his saddle,*
*And placed the stranger there.*

*"Allah! hu!" Through flashing sabres,*
*Through a stormy hail of lead,*
*The good Thessalian charger*
*Up the slopes of olives sped.*

*"Hot spurred the turbaned riders;*
*He almost felt their breath,*
*Where a mountain stream rolled darkly down*
*Between the hills and death.*

*"One brave and manful struggle, —*
*He gained the solid land,*
*And the cover of the mountains,*
*And the carbines of his band!"*

*" It was very great and noble,"*
*Said the moist-eyed listener then,*
*" But one brave deed makes no hero;*
*Tell me what he since hath been!"*

*" Still a brave and generous manhood,*
*Still an honor without stain,*
*In the prison of the Kaiser,*
*By the barricades of Seine.*

*" But dream not helm and harness*
*The sign of valor true;*
*Peace hath higher tests of manhood*
*Than battle ever knew.*

*" Wouldst know him now? Behold him,*
*The Cadmus of the blind,*
*Giving the dumb lip language,*
*The idiot clay a mind.*

*" Walking his round of duty*
*Serenely day by day,*
*With the strong man's hand of labor*
*And childhood's heart of play.*

*" True as the knights of story,*
*Sir Lancelot and his peers,*
*Brave in his calm endurance*
*As they in tilt of spears.*

*" As waves in stillest waters,*
*As stars in noonday skies,*
*All that wakes to noble action*
*In his noon of calmness lies.*

*" Wherever outraged Nature*
*Asks word or action brave,*
*Wherever struggles labor,*
*Wherever groans a slave, —*

*" Wherever rise the peoples,*
*Wherever sinks a throne,*
*The throbbing heart of Freedom finds*
*An answer in his own.*

*" Knight of a better era,*
*Without reproach or fear!*
*Said I not well that Bayards*
*And Sidneys still are here? "*

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

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# TWO NOBLE LIVES

## CHAPTER I

### THE HERO

My father, Samuel Gridley Howe, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, November 10, 1801. He came of good Colonial stock on both sides, his grandfather, Edward Compston Howe, having been one of the "Indians" of the Boston Tea Party, while his mother's uncle, Richard Gridley, was a gallant soldier and engineer, who served at Louisburg in 1745, fortified Bunker Hill the night before the battle, and, under Washington's orders, aided in preparing the siege-works which finally drove the British from Boston.

Sam Howe, as my father was called, was a handsome boy, with dark hair, rosy cheeks, and bright blue eyes, full of fun and mischief.

His father was a maker of ropes and cordage, and had a large "rope-walk" on Charles Street. Sam was very fond of playing about the rope-walk, and on the shore close by; for in those days the Back Bay was really a bay, and the water flowed up to the Charles Street houses, and stood deep over the spot where now the Public Garden blossoms. In winter the broad sheet was a clear surface of ice, where there was fine skating and sliding. In spring, when the ice was breaking up, there was another sport, exciting, but not at all safe, in which little Sam Howe delighted; and he spent much of his play time in "running tiddledies," which means jumping from one floating ice-cake to another. Once, while doing this, he fell in, and was fished out and brought to his father's office, which was near by, dripping with ice-cold water.

"Go home," said Grandfather Howe, "and tell your mother to whip you!"

"I went home," my father used to say, "but my mother did not whip me."

Sam went through the Boston Latin School; then came the question, "what next?" There

were three boys, Joseph, Samuel, and Edward. Their father was not rich, and could not send them all to college. He called them round him one day, and opened the big family Bible. "Do you each read me a chapter!" he said. "The one who reads best shall go to college."

Sam read very much the best; so he was sent to Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island. Here he stayed for four years, studying a good deal, but also, I must confess, playing a good deal, and sometimes playing naughty pranks; but the spirit of adventure which led him into mischief, was soon to lead him to far different things.

On leaving college, Sam Howe went through the Harvard Medical School, and received his diploma as Doctor of Medicine.

At that time the Greek War of Independence was going on. Greece had for centuries been under the cruel rule of Turkey; but now the Greeks had resolved to be free, and had taken up arms against their oppressors. They were a brave and gallant people, and many young men of other countries went to help them in their struggle for freedom; among these was

my father (as I shall call him from now on). He had always loved Greek history; he greatly admired the poetry of Lord Byron, who had recently given his services to Greece; and he determined to do likewise, and join the band of *Philhellenes*, or lovers of Greece.

In 1824, being then twenty-three years of age, he sailed for Greece, and offered his services as surgeon to the Greek Government. They were accepted, and for six years he remained in Greece, first with the army, and later as surgeon-in-chief to the Greek fleet. He fought in many a battle, side by side with the hardy Greek mountaineers; dressed like them, in the "snowy camise and the shaggy capote," he shared their toils and their hardships, and slept rolled in his cloak, with a stone for his pillow, under the open stars. Often for months at a time he tasted no flesh save that of mountain snails or roasted wasps; for weeks he went without bread, and sometimes for days together without food of any kind.

I remember asking him once, long years after, whether roasted wasps were not "horrid!" "Not at all!" he replied. "Roasted

to a crisp, and strung on a straw like dried cherries, they were not at all bad. I was often thankful enough to get them!"

The Greek chieftains loved him, and called him "the beautiful youth." You have read in Whittier's ballad how he once saved the life of a wounded Greek, putting him on his own horse, with the Turkish soldiers close at hand, and barely escaping on foot with his own life. This man became his faithful servant, and followed him like a dog, sleeping at his feet at night, and unwilling to lose sight of him even for an hour.

An officer who served with him said afterward that the only fault found with him was that he always *would* be in the fight, and was only a surgeon when the battle was over.

My father kept a journal during the Greek Revolution, as this war was called. I have it now, a little sheepskin volume, small enough to carry in the pocket, the pages covered with very fine, crabbed writing in faded ink which is now hard to read. In this book, by the light of the camp-fire, or the smoky lamp in a village hut, he would jot down the events of the day,

and the thoughts which filled his eager young mind. In one place he tells how —

" Squatted down upon a sort of straw pillow placed on the ground, I enjoy all the luxury of a Grecian hut; which in point of elegance, ease and comfort, although not equal to the meanest of our negro huts, is nevertheless somewhat superior to the naked rock. We have two apartments, but no partitions between them, the different rooms being made by the inequality of the ground, — we living up the hill, while the servants and horses live down in the lower part; and the smoke of our fires, rising to the roof and seeking in vain for some hole to escape, comes back again to me."

Again, he tells of his visit to an old Greek priest, who lived with his family in a tiny cottage, the best house in the village. He found the good old man just sitting down to supper with his wife and children (the priests of the Greek church are allowed to marry), and was invited most cordially to join them. The supper consisted of a huge beet, boiled, and served with butter and black bread. This was enough for the whole family and the guest too; and my

father, seeing the cheerfulness and contentment of one and all, decided that the old "Papa" had a much better supper than many rich people he remembered at home, who feasted three times a day on all the fine things that money could buy, and found neither joy nor comfort in their food.

Long, long years after this time, when I was a young girl, I went to Greece with my father, and he showed me a curious hollow in an ancient wall, built thousands of years ago, and told me that he and his comrades once lay hidden there for hours, while the Turks, scimitar in hand, scoured the fields in search of them.

So the young surgeon went about, through the villages and among the mountains, binding up wounds and tending the sick and dying; but after a time he came to see that there was worse suffering in Greece than that of the soldiers and sailors. They, after all, had the joy of fighting for their country; but the women and children, left thus alone, were starving. His great heart could not bear the sight of their suffering. He came back to this country, told of the sad things he had seen, and begged for money and clothes

and food for the perishing wives and mothers and children of the Greek soldiers. He told the story well, for he put his heart into it, and people listen to a story so told. Many hearts beat in answer to his, and in a short time he sailed again for Greece, with a good ship full of rice and flour, and cloth to make into garments, and money to buy whatever else might be needed.

When he landed in Greece, the women came flocking about him in hundreds, crying for bread, and praying God to bless him. He felt blessed enough, you may be sure, when he saw the children eating bread, and saw the naked backs covered, and the sad, hungry faces smiling again. So he went about doing good, and helping wherever he saw need. Many a poor woman may have thought that the beautiful youth was an angel sent by God to relieve her; and she may not have been far wrong.

But my father was not satisfied with feeding and clothing the people. There were many sick persons among them, and no place where they could be cared for. He established a hospital, and put it under the charge of a good

physician, Dr. Russ, while he came to this country again, to raise more money to support the hospital, and to carry on another work on which he had set his heart. He always said "Help people to help themselves!" and this is what he wished to do now. He saw that if the Greek people continued to be fed by charity, doing no work, it would injure them; so on his return he made work for them. The island of Ægina, where many of the Greek women and children, as well as the men who were not fighting, were gathered together, had no wharf or pier, and there was great need of one.

My father called the refugees together, and told them that he was going to build a pier; that they should do the work, and he would pay them for it. Great was the joy in the hearts of the poor people. He gave them all clothing, and they set to work at once under his orders. There were plenty of great stones near by, which had been the foundation-stones of an old temple, long since destroyed. The men dug out the huge blocks, and dragged them on a flat car down to the shore; the women and children

brought baskets of dirt and small stones, to fill in with. One day he writes in his journal:

" Getting on finely. The poor who labor are now five hundred, and it is cheering to my heart to go among them and see the change that has taken place. Instead of, as formerly, humbly and tremblingly addressing me and begging for assistance, they look up brightly and confidently and cry out, ' Welcome among us, sir! ' and they often add as I go away, ' God bless your father and mother; God save the souls of your relations; long life to the Americans! ' or some such endearing expression, which gives me a thrill of satisfaction, and repays me for all the toils and vexations attendant upon the task of an almoner."

This wharf, or mole, is still standing, and still known as " the American Mole."

Besides all this, my father founded a village on the Isthmus of Corinth, getting land from the Greek Government, and supplying the people with seed to sow their crops, and helping them to build their houses. Here he established fifty families, who came to him ragged and starving, and whom he left the next year

thriving and happy. They had never seen a wheeled vehicle of any kind. My father made them a wheelbarrow himself; and later, finding a sick straggler from the army who had formerly been a wheelwright, he cured him, and then employed him to build a cart, which was such a marvel that the people came flocking from miles around to see it. In fact, as he says himself, "I labored here day and night, in season and out, and was governor, legislator, clerk, constable, and everything but patriarch!"

Fifteen years later my father visited Greece again, and went to see how his village was prospering. As he rode through the street, one villager said to another, "This man looks like Howe!" Presently some one cried out, "It *is* Howe!" and then all the people came running out of their houses, and pulled him off his horse, and embraced him, and made a feast in his honor, and the whole village wept and laughed and rejoiced because their hero was come again.

## CHAPTER II

### IN THE PRISON OF THE KAISER

WHEN the war was over, and Greece a free country, my father came home, and began to look about him to see what he could do to help others to help themselves. He had long since made up his mind that he did not care about making money or getting power for himself, but to help those who needed help. So, all through his life, he was a *philanthropist*, which means a lover of man.

He had not long to wait for his new work. Up to that time, there had been no teaching for the blind in this country. If a child was blind, it must sit with folded hands at home, while the other children went to school and to play. At the time of my father's return, a school for blind children was about to be started in Boston, and my father was asked if he would take charge of it. This was just what he wanted, and he said "Yes!" with right good will. But first,

he felt, he must prepare himself for this new task, so that he might do it thoroughly and well; so he went to Europe, where the teaching of the blind had already begun, to learn how it was best done. On this trip one of the strangest adventures of his life befell him.

This was in the year 1832. The people of Poland, that unhappy country which had been conquered some years before, and divided among its conquerors, Russia, Prussia and Austria, had made an effort to regain their independence. They were defeated, after a gallant struggle against hopeless odds, and a time of great suffering followed, for the Polish soldiers as well as the women and children. The people of France and America felt deep sympathy with the Poles, and wished to help them in their great need; and a Polish Committee was formed in Paris, with General Lafayette at its head, and our own novelist, James Fenimore Cooper, as one of its members.

My father was in Paris at this time. He had been studying the French methods of teaching the blind, and was now on the point of going to Germany to see what he could learn there.

General Lafayette saw that here was the man to help the Committee carry out its plans, and he asked my father if he would take charge of money, clothing, and provisions for a body of Polish troops who had taken refuge in Prussia, and were known to be suffering great hardships. My father accepted the trust joyfully, and carried it out faithfully. As in Greece, so on the banks of the Vistula, the naked were clothed and the hungry fed; and then he went on his way to Berlin, the capital of Prussia. He realized as he travelled that he was being "shadowed," but thought nothing of it. He had done no harm, and feared no evil.

Arrived in Berlin, he went quietly to his hotel. At midnight he was roused by a knock at the door, and opening it, he saw three men in citizen's clothes, who bade him come with them. On his asking who they were, they opened their coats and showed him the badge of the police. My father told them he was very tired, and that if they would let him have a few hours' sleep he would go with them quietly in the morning. They finally consented, and left him alone. Now, he had in his breast pocket some im-

portant papers, letters to and from Lafayette and others of the Committee, the discovery of which might prove dangerous to himself and to them. What should he do with them? Fortunately the police had not searched him this time, but they would be sure to do so in the morning. Glancing round the bare little room, he spied a plaster bust of the King of Prussia, standing on top of the stove. He thrust the dangerous papers up into the hollow of the head — the first time that head had ever received any ideas of freedom! Then, taking some other papers of no importance, he carefully tore them into tiny bits, threw them into a basin of water, and went peacefully to bed.

Early in the morning the police returned, pounced on the floating scraps of paper (which they afterwards showed him carefully pasted together!) and marched him off to prison.

What kind of prison it was you shall see by reading part of one of his letters.

"BERLIN PRISON, *March* 20, 1832.

"I have oft dated my letters to you from queer, out-of-the-way places, from city and

from camp, from mountain, from cottage, and I believe from cavern; but never did it enter my imagination that I should write to you from the cell of a prison; and that, too, by stealth on a bit of brown paper (in which my candle had been wrapped), with a stub of a pencil coaxed from a turnkey, and by the glimmer of light that comes from a close-grated window. Yet so it is; here I am, as sure and fast as bolts and bars can make me. Here I have been for the last twenty days, and here I may be for the next twenty months, for aught I know. . . .

I am snug enough, between four granite walls, in a wee bit cell, fast barred and bolted."

The window, or air-hole, which gave him a little light, was eight feet from the ground, so that he could not see out; he was not allowed to see or speak to any one, nor to look at a newspaper, much less a book.

Here he stayed for five long, weary weeks; and here he might have died, had it not been for a fortunate happening. The day he arrived in Berlin, on his way to the hotel, he met an American gentleman whom he knew. They stopped and exchanged greetings, and my

father told the gentleman the name of the hotel to which he was going. The next day this gentleman, whose name was Albert Brisbane, went to the hotel to call on my father. He asked for Dr. Howe, and was told to his astonishment that no such person was there, or had ever been there.

Mr. Brisbane instantly suspected treachery, and wrote to Mr. Rives, the American Minister at Paris. Mr. Rives in turn wrote to the Prussian Government, demanding "the person of an American citizen, unjustly detained."

The Prussian Government replied that it knew nothing of any such person. Mr. Rives persisted, the more strongly that he soon received a letter from my father. I have this letter now, written in faint pencil on a fragment of coarse gray wrapping-paper.

"It is now twenty days," he says, "since I was seized by order of the Minister of Police of Prussia, and thrust into prison, where I have since been kept in the strictest seclusion. I can see no one, I can hear from no one; even a newspaper is forbidden to enter my cell, and it is only to-day that I have received permission to address you and my relatives.

"I have in vain sought to know my offence, I have in vain prayed to be brought to judgment; it is now ten days since they have ceased to examine and cross-question me, and it is a fortnight that all my papers have been in the hands of the Minister of Police."

Finally Mr. Rives grew so urgent in his demands, that the Prussian Government decided it would be unwise to rouse the American Eagle to anger. My father was taken out of prison, and put into a post-wagon in charge of two police-officers, who were charged to hurry him day and night, to avoid the large cities, to prevent his speaking to any one, to refuse him rest on any pretext, and to imprison him in the nearest fortress if he attempted to escape. In this way, weak and ill from his long imprisonment, harshly treated, sometimes refused even a glass of water, my father was hurried for seven days over rough country roads, and finally left on the frontier of France, alone and penniless, to make his way home as best he might.

All through his imprisonment, he was obliged to pay the jailer for his board. Many years

after, when his name was known throughout the civilized world for his work among the blind, the King of Prussia sent him a gold medal as a token of admiration. My father had the curiosity to weigh it, and found that its value in money was equal to the sum he had paid the Prussian Government for his prison board and lodging in the year 1832.

The precious papers, mostly letters from Lafayette, remained in the hollow plaster head of old King Frederick William for six months: then a friend of my father's, visiting Berlin, went at his request to the hotel, managed to secure the room, and quietly took them out and brought them away.

## CHAPTER III

### THE CADMUS OF THE BLIND

SOON after this, having learned all that was to be learned in those days about teaching the blind, my father came home, and straightway took up his new work, which was to end only with his life. First of all, he put a bandage over his own eyes, and wore it for some time, so that he might realize a little of what it meant to be blind. Then, he found some little blind children, took them home to his father's house, and taught them to read and write; the first by means of raised letters which they could feel with their fingers, the second by means of raised lines, which enabled them to guide the pencil and keep the lines straight. He made maps for them, with raised dots of rough plaster for mountains, and pins' heads for cities: their little fingers felt of all these things, and became so skilful that

in a short time they could read as rapidly as many children with the full use of their eyes.

This is why Whittier calls my father "the Cadmus of the Blind:" Cadmus having made the first letters for the Greeks, in old, old days.

When people heard that blind children could be taught to read, more and more parents came, bringing their children to the new school. Soon my grandfather's house could not hold them. There was no room, and no money to carry on the fast-growing school.

My father's favorite saying was "Obstacles are things to be overcome!" So he went to work to overcome these. He took his blind pupils before the Legislature, showed what he had done, and asked for money to carry on the school. The Legislature instantly voted to give six thousand dollars a year to the school; and soon after, a Boston gentleman, Colonel Perkins, gave his fine house and garden for the use of the little blind children. The school was moved there, and has been known ever since as the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind.

But this did not satisfy my father. The

blind children of his own State were now provided for; but he knew that in the other States of the Union (except New York, where a school was opened in the same year, and Pennsylvania, which followed suit the year after), the blind children were still sitting with folded hands, knowing nothing of the pleasant world of books, unable to write or sew or knit or play the piano, or do any of the things that his pupils were so happily doing in their new life. So he went from State to State, taking a little band of children with him, going before the Legislatures, showing what the children had learned to do, begging them to do the same thing for the blind children of their own State. And in his footsteps, all over this great country, sprang up the schools for the blind, bringing light into darkness, and joy where had been sorrow.

In the year 1837 my father overcame an obstacle that people had always thought could never be overcome. He heard of a little girl, named Laura Bridgman, who was deaf, dumb and blind. She had lost her sight and hearing when she was a baby; she was now seven years old, and could neither see, hear, smell, nor —

save in a very slight degree — taste. My father went to see her, and persuaded her parents to let her come to the Perkins Institution. Here he set himself patiently to bring the child's mind out of darkness into light.

You shall hear how he did it.

He took things in common use, such as knives, forks, spoons, keys, and so forth, and pasted on them labels with their names in raised letters. These he gave to Laura, who felt of them carefully. She soon found that the crooked lines "*spoon*" on one object were different from the crooked lines "*k e y*" on another. Next he gave her some of the labels without the objects; and she soon found (for she was a very bright, observant child), that they bore the same crooked lines that were on the spoons, keys, etc. After a little time she would lay the "*s p o o n*" label on the spoon, the "*k e y*" label on the key, and so on, of her own accord; then my father would pat her on the head, and she knew he was pleased; but she did not yet know what he was trying to do.

When she had learned to put the right labels on many familiar things, one day my father gave

her, instead of a label, the different letters of the word, on separate bits of paper. First he put them in the right order, to spell "*spoon*," "*key*," "*book*," etc.; then he mixed them up in a heap, and made a sign to her to arrange them herself in the right order. This she did, patiently and correctly; but still she was merely imitating his actions, and learning as a clever dog learns tricks. She did not know what it meant, nor why she was doing it.

But one happy day, as my father watched the little girl at her patient task, he saw her face change. Light seemed to flash over it. All in a moment it had come to her; she knew what it all meant; she knew that by these raised marks on paper she could make a sign for every thought, every wish; she knew that she was no longer alone in a dark and silent world, but could make herself understood, and could understand in turn the thoughts of others.

I think this was the happiest day of my father's life; and since that day, no blind deaf-mute child has ever needed to be alone in the world.

Laura Bridgman lived many years, and be-

came a happy, earnest, industrious woman. She learned to talk with her fingers, and could talk faster than most people with their tongues. I am her namesake, and I knew her well. She was a great reader, wrote many letters, sewed beautifully, made lace and crochet work; I doubt if she was ever idle. She loved my father always better than any one else in the world, and she was very dear to him also.

But there were other obstacles for him to overcome. Up to the year 1841 little had been done in this country for the insane. Many of them were shut up in jails and almshouses, and often cruelly treated. A noble woman, Miss Dorothea Dix, had found out something about their sad condition, and she asked my father to help her to bring about a better state of things. So they worked together, and other good people worked with them; and to-day in every State in the Union there is an asylum for the insane, where they are cared for and kindly treated, and often cured and sent home happy.

While carrying on this work, my father found that there were other sufferers in the village almshouses beside the insane; there were many

feeble-minded children, who could not go to school like other children, and who, alas! were often not wanted at home. No one had ever thought of teaching these children. They could not learn the regular lessons; therefore they could not learn any; that is what people thought. Nowhere in all this country had anything been done to help children of this class; and yet there were thousands and thousands of them in the land.

But my father said, "A little is better than nothing. They can be taught something!" When he thought of a thing, his next step was to do it, and then show people that it could be done. He took some idiotic and feeble-minded children into a corner of the Perkins Institution, and there he taught them patiently, little by little, the things that they could learn. At first people laughed at him. "Do you know," said one friend of his to another, "what Howe is going to do next? He is going to *teach idiots!* Ha! ha!" and they thought it was a great joke, and called my father *Don Quixote.*

But when they came to see what he had done; saw the sad, vacant faces grown cheerful; saw

the weak, helpless hands growing strong and capable; saw the girls learning to sew, and the boys to work; they ceased to laugh, and many of them helped him with money and in other ways. In a short time he had founded the School for Feeble-minded Children, which has ever since been a pleasant and cheerful place, full of hope and promise.

These are some of the things my father did; but there were many others. All through his long life he worked to overcome obstacles, and to help people to help themselves. The slave, the soldier, the prisoner, the poor, the unfortunate; for all these he worked, without pause and without rest, so long as life remained to him.

After his death, his friend Dr. Edward Everett Hale wrote these words about him.

"He found idiots chattering, taunted and ridiculed by each village fool, and he left them cheerful and happy. He found the insane shut up in their wretched cells, miserable, starving, cold, and dying, and he left them happy, hopeful, and brave. He found the blind sitting in darkness, and he left them glad in the sunshine of the love of God."

## CHAPTER IV

### JULIA WARD

WHILE Sam Howe was still in college, learning lessons and playing pranks, a little girl was born in New York, in a house on the beautiful Bowling Green, near where the emigrant ships now come in. Her father's name was Samuel Ward, and she was named Julia, after her lovely young mother. People were very sorry for little Julia Ward, because she had red hair, which was thought a great misfortune in those days. Visitors coming to see her mother would shake their heads and say "Poor little Julia! what a pity she has red hair!" and the tender mother, whose own hair was dark, would sigh, and wonder how such a thing should happen in her family. The beautiful hair was combed with a leaden comb, as one old lady said that would turn it dark; and it was soaked in honey-water, as another old lady said that was really the best

thing you could do with it; and the little girl felt that she might almost as well be a hunchback or a cripple as that unfortunate creature, a red-haired child.

Still, there were some who saw Julia's beauty, for there is a story of how once, when she was very little, she heard her aunts talking about her looks, and saying how pretty she was, spite of the red hair. Julia could not reach up to the mirror, even on tiptoe; so she climbed on a chair, and took a good look at herself. "*Is that all?*" she cried; and scrambled down again as fast as she could, sadly disappointed.

When she was six years old her beautiful dark-eyed mother died; and after that Julia and her brothers and sisters (there were six of them in all) were brought up by their good aunt, who came to make her home with them and their father.

A very good and kind aunt she was, and devoted to the motherless children; but sometimes she did funny things. Every day the children were sent out to drive in a great yellow chariot lined with fine blue cloth. Auntie Francis thought it would be a good plan to have

them dressed to match the chariot; so one day they appeared, the three little girls, Julia, Louisa, and Annie, in bright blue pelisses (a pelisse was a kind of long coat, much worn at that time) and yellow satin bonnets. This costume was becoming to Louisa and Annie, who had dark hair and eyes, but Julia thought it did not suit her so well. However, she thought very little about her clothes; she had so many other things to think about! One day one of her sisters met her coming home from school with one blue shoe and one green; and often they had to wake her up from her day-dreams and remind her that this or that must be seen to about her dress.

Speaking of shoes, the Ward children must have been very uncomfortable when they went to school in winter; Auntie Francis believed in "hardening" them, so in the coldest weather they went in thin slippers and white cotton stockings. No rubbers then, no arctics or leggings!

Once, when they were all little, the good housekeeper was taken ill and died in the house. The children were very fond of her, and Auntie

Francis did not wish them to be saddened by the funeral arrangements; so she gave them a strong dose of physic, which made them all ill; put them to bed, and kept them there till the funeral was over.

Julia Ward was very happy at school, for study was one of the things she loved best in the world, then and all through her long life, to the very end. At nine years old she was studying Paley's "Moral Philosophy" with girls of sixteen and eighteen. She could not have been older than this when, one day, she heard a class reciting an Italian lesson. She was delighted with the sound of the musical language, and listened, and listened again and again. Then she managed to get hold of an Italian grammar, and studied it by herself, saying nothing to any one; till one day she handed to the astonished Italian teacher a letter correctly written in Italian, begging to be allowed to join the class. She loved the study of languages, always; she spoke French and German beautifully, and wrote them easily and correctly. Later in life she studied Spanish somewhat; she was never afraid to *try* to speak

any language that she heard. Once, when she and my father were in Santo Domingo, where Spanish is the national language, my father wrote home to her sister, " Julia knows three words of Spanish, and talks it all day long! "

I shall have more to say by and by about her studies.

Her father was a grave, stern man, but devoted to his children. He loved Julia deeply, and she loved him as much as she feared him, which is saying a great deal. She always sat on his left at table, and often he would take her hand in his and hold it. He could go on with his dinner, because it was his left hand that held hers; but it was Julia's right hand that was held, and as she dared not draw it away, she often got little dinner.

She had a habit of dropping off her slippers while at table. One day her father felt the little slipper, with no foot inside it. He put his own foot on it and moved it under his chair, then said in his deep, grave voice, " My daughter, will you be so good as to bring me my seals, which I have left on the table in my room? "

Poor Julia! she hunted with both feet, but

could not find the slipper; and at last she had to go on the errand in one slipper and one white stocking-foot. She never would have dreamed of asking for the shoe.

She was a very good child, but she could be naughty sometimes, as every child can. She loved to tease her good old Grandfather Ward, who lived with them at one time. This dear old gentleman had not always been old. He was a gallant young soldier in Revolutionary times, the son of Governor Ward of Rhode Island, and nephew of General Greene. He was only eighteen when, already a captain, he marched his company to the siege of Boston, and then through the wilderness of Maine (as it then was), through ice and snow, barefoot, to Quebec. Some of you may have seen a copy of Trumbull's famous painting of "The Attack on Quebec." Look in the left-hand corner, and you will see a group of three men, one of them a young, active figure with flashing eyes. That is Samuel Ward, Julia's grandfather. He rose to be major, then lieutenant-colonel; was at Peekskill, Valley Forge, and Red Bank, and wrote the official account of the last-named

battle, which may now be found in Washington's correspondence. He was a good soldier, and in course of time he became a good grandfather. Little Julia Ward loved him dearly, and yet, as I say, she was sometimes naughty. Once, when she was a very little child, she sat down at the piano, placed a music-book on the rack before her, and began to pound and thump on the keys with all her might, making the most dreadful noise. Her grandfather was sitting by, book in hand. He had no ear for music, but he thought it did not sound right, somehow. After enduring it patiently for some time, he said in his kind, courtly way, "Is it so set down in the book, my dear?"

"Yes, Grandpapa!" said naughty little Julia, and went on banging; and the dear good gentleman said nothing more.

She was naughty to her Uncle Ben, too, one day, and stamped her foot, and cried out: "I don't care for old Ben Cutler!" (but she did, really)!

Julia began to read poetry when she was very little indeed; and she was still a child when she began to write it. I have beside me as I

write a little brown blank book, in which are many poems and hymns written by her in her eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth years. One of these poems is in French, and in the four stanzas there is only one mistake.

When Julia was nine years old, her dolls were taken away from her, that she might realize more the dignity of her position as "Miss Ward," the eldest daughter and sister. She was always addressed as "Miss Ward" by servants and masters; and tried hard to be dignified, poor little girl! One day she found her sisters playing some childish game in the nursery. Perhaps she would have liked to play too, but she felt that she ought to lead them to think of more serious things, so she bade them lay aside their toys and improve their minds by writing poetry. Louisa said she could not, and would not; but little sweet Annie would try, to please Sister Julia. So she sat down and thought hard for some time, and finally produced these lines.

"He feeds the ravens when they call,
And stands them in a pleasant hall."

When Julia was still a growing girl, her father built a fine new house, on the corner of Bond Street and Broadway. It was considered very far up town, which will amuse New York children who may happen to read this. The rooms were large and lofty, and Julia spent much of her spare time in walking up and down the long picture-gallery, dreaming of all the wonderful things she would see and do some day. She was generally alone, for the little sisters were much younger, and paired off naturally together, and her brothers were at boarding-school; but she was not lonely, for her mind was full of beautiful thoughts. She read Shakespeare and Byron, and all the poetry she could find, and she wrote more and more herself. Among other poems of her early girlhood was one called "The Ill-cut Mantell; A Romaunt of the time of Kynge Arthur." The story is an old one, but the telling of it was all Julia's own, and I must quote a few lines.

"I cannot well describe in rhyme
The female toilet of that time.

I do not know how trains were carried,
How single ladies dressed, or married;
If caps were proper at a ball,
Or even if caps were worn at all;
If robes were made of crape or tulle,
If skirts were narrow, gored, or full.
Perhaps, without consulting grace,
The hair was scraped back from the face,
While on the head a mountain rose,
Crowned, like Mont Blanc, with endless snows.
It may be that the locks were shorn;
It may be that the lofty puff,
The stomacher, the rising ruff,
The bodice, or the veil were worn.
Perhaps mantillas were the passion,
Perhaps ferronnières were in fashion, —
I cannot, and I will not tell.
But this one thing I wot full well,
That every lady there was dressed
In what she thought became her best."

The Wards spent the summer at Newport, and that was always a happy time. The boys were at home then, Sam and Henry and Marion, and they all played, and walked, and rode together. Julia had a little thorough-bred mare on which she used to scamper all about the country. Sometimes the mare, a wild little

creature, would throw her off, though she was a good rider; then Julia would pick herself up and run home, and creep in at the back door, for fear Auntie should see her and forbid her riding any more.

So Julia Ward grew up, dreaming and studying, writing and playing and thinking; grew up into a lovely young woman. And then, while on a visit to Boston, she heard the wonderful story of Laura Bridgman, and of the man who had brought her from darkness into light. She went with some friends to visit the Perkins Institution for the Blind, and there met my father. She has herself told how she first saw him, " a noble rider, on a noble horse." She felt at once that he was the most remarkable man she had ever met; he was no less strongly attracted by her. Acquaintance ripened into friendship, friendship into love; and in 1843 Samuel Gridley Howe and Julia Ward were married.

## CHAPTER V

### THE TWO HAPPY HOMES

Now begins the part of these two noble lives that I and my sisters and brother remember, the happy time when Dr. and Mrs. Howe were our dear father and mother. I have told fully about these happy years in another book,[1] but I must say something about them here, for we children were a very important part of the two lives. I suppose there never were more tender or devoted parents than these two people, whose days were so full of work for all kinds of other people and causes. I think one reason why they were able to do so much was that they *never wasted any time.* My father was up at four or five o'clock, winter and summer, writing his letters and reports, which were eagerly read all over the world. By six o'clock he was ready for his ride, and one of us children

[1] When I Was Your Age.

always went with him. He was a superb rider, and he taught us all how to sit a horse, how to hold the whip and reins, and so forth. There were many stories of his skill in managing horses. Once, when my sister Julia was a baby, he and my mother were travelling in Italy; there were no railroads there in those days, so they drove in an old-fashioned travelling-carriage. One day they stopped at the door of an inn, and my father went in for a moment to make some inquiries. No sooner was he out of sight than the driver slipped in at the side door to get a glass of wine; and the next moment the horses, finding themselves free, ran away, with my mother, the nurse and baby, in the carriage.

My father, hearing the sound of wheels, came out, caught sight of the driver's guilty face peering round the corner in affright, and at once saw what had happened. He ran along the road in the direction in which the horses were headed; and presently, rounding a corner of the mountain which the road skirted, he saw a country wagon coming towards him, drawn by a stout horse, with a stout driver half-asleep on the seat. My father ran up, stopped the horse,

unhitched him in the twinkling of an eye, leaped on his back, and was off like a flash, before the man got his eyes fairly open. He galloped on at full speed till he overtook the lumbering carriage-horses, which were easily stopped. No one was hurt; he turned the horses back, and soon came to where the wagoner still sat on his seat with his mouth wide open. My father paid him well for the use of the horse, and he probably regretted that there were no more mad Americans to steal a ride and pay for it.

Another time (this was at home), the horses ran away with my father inside the carriage, — a carryall with a large plate-glass window in front. The coachman had got down to pick up his whip, which he had dropped. Again, like a flash, my father did the thing that had to be done; sprang through the glass, shivering it to atoms, caught up the reins, and stopped the runaways before any damage was done.

Still another time, we were sitting at dinner, when word came that the Perkins Institution was on fire. Between our house and the Institution was a high hill, the last remaining bit

of "Washington Heights," where General Washington gathered his troops in the Revolutionary days. The messenger had come round by way of the street, wasting precious minutes; but my father never wasted minutes. He ran up the hill, which sloped gently up behind our house, but on the further side showed a steep descent like the face of a cliff. Down this cliff he slid, reached the Institution, and before any one knew he had come, had swarmed up the gutter-spout, and was hacking away at the burning timbers with an axe that he had managed to pick up on his way. The fire was soon put out; so were all the fires he had to do with.

We lived at South Boston then, in a very old house, quaint and comfortable. It stood in a beautiful green garden full of lilacs and snowballs, and lovely blossoming trees, the laburnum, with its showers of gold, and white and pink hawthorn. When my mother first entered the garden, in early summer, she exclaimed "Oh! this is green peace!" and Green Peace the place was called ever after.

My mother did not get up at four o'clock, as

my father did, but she was as busy in her way as he in his. When she had finished her housekeeping duties and taken her morning walk, she went straight to her desk, and spent the morning, and often a great part of the day, in study and composition. When we were children, she seemed always to be studying Latin and German: later, when she was fifty years old, she learned Greek, and from that time on always read some of it every day. She helped my father, too, in his anti-slavery work, and in editing a newspaper, the *Commonwealth*, which he carried on for some time; but most of the time when she was not studying, she was writing poems and plays and essays, which have given pleasure and help to their readers ever since.

My first recollection of my mother is standing by the piano in the great dining-room at Green Peace, in a black velvet dress, with her beautiful neck and arms bare, singing to us. She had a wonderful voice, and her singing was one of our chief delights. She knew every song that ever was written, or so we thought. English, Scotch, and Irish songs; French, German, Italian, and even Polish;

there truly was no end to them. She taught us to sing with her, too, and so we learned a great deal, besides having the most delightful times. But she made songs of her own, also, and these we loved best of all.

We were not allowed to interrupt my mother's study hours, unless there was some good reason; but there came a time in the afternoon that was all our own. Then " Mamma " would sit down at the piano, and we would all sing and dance together. First we sang, my mother leading; old German student songs, plantation melodies, " Dearest May " and the like; and those of her own songs that we loved best. Then, when we could sing no more, the dancing began, my mother playing the most delightful tunes that ever were. And while we were dancing, perhaps the door would open and " Papa " come in to join the merrymaking; he might come playing bear, wrapped in his great fur coat, growling terribly. That was wonderful fun, for he was the good-natured bear of the fairy stories, and we could climb all over him, and pull him about, and make him dance with us; only when he was tired, he said he had

"a bone in his leg," and would dance no more.

They both read aloud to us a great deal, these dear parents. Both read very beautifully; from them we learned to love Shakespeare and Scott and Dickens; and we never can forget how my father read the Bible, in his deep, melodious voice. They made us read aloud, too, and took great pains to make us *finish* our words, read clearly and with the right emphasis. My mother was specially careful about our reading poetry, and never let us read it, as some people do to-day, as if it were prose. We must always make the music of the verse evident.

We had plenty of good books; I never saw any "trash" in my father's house.

As I have told you, they were busy all day long, from morning till night; but they were never too busy to listen to us, to help us, when we needed anything. When my mother took her morning walk, she might have liked to think over what she had to write that day; but instead, she had two or three children "tagging" after her, asking questions, and telling important things, about how Sally Bradford, the

rubber doll, had a hole in her head, or why the cover of the sugar-bowl was buried in the garden. And when my father was pruning his trees and gathering his pears, we must go too, and get in his way (only we never knew we were in it!) and find out all about everything connected with pears or peaches. We must have hampered them sadly sometimes, but as I say, we never knew it; and oh, how much we learned in this way! Not only a great deal about fruits and flowers, but things far different: that it was not honorable to take fruit without leave; that we must not be greedy, but must share with the rest; that it was delightful to give pleasure to others, as by taking baskets of fruit to the " Institution " and distributing it among our little blind friends, and seeing them enjoy it.

We had school, of course, and learned lessons out of books, as other children do; but no other children ever had our father and mother to learn from.

They had parties for us, too. My mother wrote plays, and she and my father and some of their friends acted them for us, till we grew big

enough to take part ourselves; and there was José, the brown donkey, for us to ride on, and the " junk " or rocking-boat, for us to rock in; there was really no end to our pleasures.

All these things were at Green Peace, and were pleasures of spring and autumn and winter. In summer we went to our other home, no less dear; Lawton's Valley, near Newport, Rhode Island. This was another children's paradise; we were always as happy to get down to the Valley as we were to get back to Green Peace; we never knew which we loved best. There was the brook to paddle in, and the old mill, and the Valley itself, like a long green parlor, shaded by great trees, and floored with smooth turf, where we used to have the most wonderful picnics that ever were. There were the apple-trees, too, not to be compared with the Green Peace trees for fruit-bearing, but far better for climbing in; and the meadows full of blackberries, and the salt water to bathe in.

We had nurses to take care of us, but when we were ill I cannot remember them at all; I only remember my mother tending us, smoothing the aching head with her beautiful white

hands, singing to us softly, making us forget the pain; and my father, leaving his work to come and cheer us up, and tell us the wonderful story about Jacky Nory, the story that had no end. And when we had to go to the dentist, — it was much more dreadful to go in those days, for there was no " gas," and when a tooth had to be pulled, — well! — never mind about that; anyhow, when we had to go, either " Papa " or " Mamma " always went with us, and held our hand, and helped us to bear it as well as we could.

And all this time, remember, the great work was going on, without pause or rest. The blind, the deaf, the insane, and all the sufferers were being helped; the beautiful poems and books were being written; every day and all day, people of all kinds and all nations were coming to my father and mother for help, or comfort, or pleasure; but the happy home was always there for the children.

## BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword.
His truth is marching on!

I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on!

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel:
" As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal; "
Let the hero born of woman crush the serpent with his heel, —
Since God is marching on!

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call
retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment
seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him, be jubilant, my
feet!
Our God is marching on!

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the
sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and
me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men
free,
While God is marching on!

## CHAPTER VI

### IN WAR TIME

In the year 1861 the terrible Civil War broke out in this country, and North and South were for a time divided. My father was past the age for active service, and could not join the army, as he would have liked to do; but he was able to help a great deal, first by going, at Governor Andrew's request, to examine into the condition of the Union soldiers in the field, and later by helping to found the famous Sanitary Commission, (the fore-runner of the Red Cross) and taking part in its labors. This duty took him to battle-field, camp, hospital and prison; and wherever he went he shed the light of his wisdom and the fire of his patriotism.

My mother, too, longed to help her country. At first she did not know how she could do this,

except by doing what all the women and children were doing in those days, making clothing and sending comforts to the soldiers in camp and field. Soon, however, she found a way of her own.

In the late autumn of this year, 1861, she went to Washington with my father and a party of friends, among them Governor Andrew, who was called "the great War Governor." One day they drove out of the city to see a review of the troops. It had hardly begun when the alarm was given. Some of the Union soldiers near by had been surrounded and surprised by the enemy; the review was given up, and some troops sent to the rescue of their comrades. The rest of the army marched back to Washington, and the carriage containing Governor and Mrs. Andrew, my mother, and the Reverend James Freeman Clarke, returned also, moving at a foot-pace, the soldiers marching on either side and filling the roadway. My mother and her friends began to sing some of the well-known war-songs, among them

"John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave;"

this seemed to please the soldiers, who cried out "Good for you!" and took up the song themselves.

Mr. Clarke said to my mother, "Mrs. Howe, why do you not write some good words for that stirring tune?"

"I wish I might!" said my mother.

Very early the next morning, when the east was still gray, my mother awoke, and found to her amazement that lines of poetry seemed to be shaping themselves in her mind.

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord" — She lay quite still, and the words went on, grouping themselves into lines, the lines flowing on into verses. By and by the whole poem was complete in her mind. Then she said to herself, "I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately!" She rose at once, found a sheet of paper and an old stump of a pen which she had had the night before, and began to write down the lines almost without looking, as she had often done while watching by us children in our sleep.

"Having completed this," she says, "I lay down again and fell asleep, but not without

feeling that something of importance had happened to me."

Something of importance indeed, not to her alone, but to her whole country. The Battle Hymn of the Republic was printed in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Most people were too busy just then to read poetry, but my mother heard that her verses were making their way into the camps and being sung by the soldiers, and she was well content. Among those who read them was Chaplain McCabe, a good and earnest man, who was about to devote his time and strength to the service of his country. He was so much impressed by the poem that he learned it by heart. Soon after, he went to the front with his regiment, was taken prisoner at Winchester, while caring for the wounded, and sent to Libby Prison. Here he was confined, with many other Union soldiers, in a large bare room, like a loft in a warehouse; there was no furniture in it; the prisoners sat on the floor by day, and slept on it by night, without mattress or pillow. One evening, the officer in charge of them told them that the Union armies had just sustained a terrible defeat. This filled them with sorrow,

and they gathered together in little groups, some sitting on the cold bare floor, some standing by the narrow windows to get a little light, and talked over the sad news with heavy hearts. As they sat thus in darkness and sorrow, the negro who waited on them came in, and bending over one of the groups seated on the floor, whispered something in their ears. The news they had heard, he said, was false; the Union armies had triumphed, had won a great and glorious victory.

The glad tidings spread like wildfire through the gloomy vault; men wept and laughed, embracing one another, wild with joy and hope; and Chaplain McCabe, his heart lifted up in thanksgiving, lifted up his voice also, a noble one, and began to sing the poem he had so lately learned.

" Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on."

Every soul in that prison knew the tune, and every voice joined in the chorus that rang out upon the night air.

> " Glory, glory hallelujah!
> Glory, glory, hallelujah!
> Glory, glory hallelujah!
> His truth is marching on."

That was a happy night in Libby Prison; for the victory was that of Gettysburg.

By and by Chaplain McCabe was released, and came to Washington. Here he gave a lecture, in which he told about the things he had seen and done, on the field and in prison. Among other stirring tales, he told of the scene in Libby Prison; and once more, to a vast audience of loyal people, he sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The effect was magical. People sprang to their feet, wept and shouted and sang with all their might; and when the song was ended, above all the tumult was heard the voice of Abraham Lincoln, crying while the tears rolled down his cheeks, " *Sing it again!* "

So the Battle Hymn sang itself into the heart of the nation; and to-day, as I need not tell

you, it is sung in church and school and home, throughout the length and breadth of the land my mother loved.

She wrote many other poems about the war. One of them, " The Flag," was always a favorite of hers and of mine, so I shall print two stanzas from it here.

THE FLAG

There's a flag hangs over my threshold, whose folds
are more dear to me
Than the blood that thrills in my bosom its earnest
of liberty;
And dear are the stars it harbors in its sunny field of
blue,
As the hope of a further heaven, that lights all our
dim lives through.

. . . . . .

The flag of our stately battles, not struggles of wrath
and greed,
Its stripes were a holy lesson, its spangles a deathless
creed;
Twas red with the blood of freemen, and white with
the fear of the foe;
And the stars that fight in their courses 'gainst tyrants
its symbols know.

## CHAPTER VII

### AFTERNOON AND EVENING

In the year 1867 my father had the happiness of going once more to Greece on an errand of mercy. When Greece won her freedom, the island of Crete had been left under Turkish rule; but now the islanders, a brave and hardy race, had risen against their tyrants, and made a gallant struggle to win their freedom too. As in the case of Greece so many years before, there was great suffering among the women and children. My father was now an old man, but he felt that he could not let them suffer while he had strength to help; he called a meeting of kind people in Boston, told them the sad story of the brave Cretans, and called on them for aid. It was generously given; and once more he sailed for Greece, carrying food for the hungry and clothing for the naked. My mother went with him, as did my sister Julia and I; and we

all helped in giving out the clothes, many of which had been made by Boston school-girls. It was a delightful time for all of us. The Turks were angry, and forbade my father to go to Crete, setting a price on his head, but he went all the same, and came back safe. Once, indeed, he came very near shipwreck. He was in a wretched little steamboat, the machinery of which broke down, leaving the vessel helpless. They drifted about all night, at the mercy of the waves. With the morning a breeze sprang up, but the captain and crew of the tug (for it was nothing more) were only the more frightened, and wept and wailed, calling on the saints to help them. My father, however, tore down a piece of the awning, and with the help of a passenger held it up by way of a sail, and so brought the vessel safe into port.

The brave Cretans did not succeed in winning their freedom that year, though they fought hard for it; but now they have their own government, and are prosperous and thriving.

So long as he lived, my father never ceased to work for the good of others; he has been

called " the Servant of Humanity," because he gave his whole life for the service of his fellow men.

In the year 1876 this great and good life ended.

My mother had still many long years before her, and she continued to fill them full of good and lovely and helpful deeds. She did not give up her studies, but she added to them all kinds of other work. We children were now grown up and married, so she had much more time at her disposal. She felt that the women of our country and of all countries might make their lives fuller and freer and broader than they had been; so she founded or helped to found many clubs and associations of women, some for work and some for study, all based upon the idea of helping women to help themselves. She felt that women should have the right to vote, and worked ardently in this cause. She wrote many essays and lectures, and went about the country delivering them; and wherever she went she was gladly welcomed, as the author of the famous Battle Hymn, and as an earnest lover of her kind. The words of wisdom

and cheer that she spoke gave help and comfort and strength to very many people, and her name became more and more beloved.

She felt that war was one of the most terrible evils, and that women ought to fight against it with the weapons of peace; so for this cause too she spoke, often and well, and for it she wrote more than one poem.

My mother's poems fill several volumes, and some of them have become household words. Here is one which I have always specially loved.

A PARABLE

"I sent a child of mine to-day;
I hope you used him well."
"Now, Lord, no visitor of yours
Has waited at my bell.

The children of the Millionaire
Run up and down our street;
I glory in their well-combed hair,
Their dress and trim complete.

But yours would in a chariot come,
With thorough-breds so gay;
And little merry men and maids
To cheer him on his way."

"Stood, then, no child before your door?"
The Lord, persistent, said.
"Only a ragged beggar-boy,
With rough and frowzy head.

The dirt was crusted on his skin,
His muddy feet were bare;
The cook gave victuals from within;
I cursed his coming there."

What sorrow, silvered with a smile,
Slides o'er the face divine?
What tenderest whisper thrills rebuke?
"The beggar-boy was mine!"

As the long, golden afternoon of my mother's life deepened toward sunset, with every year she grew dearer and wiser and more beautiful. You have all seen pictures of her, taken in recent years, with the quaint, pretty cap crowning her silver hair. And with every year more and more people came to her, from all parts of the country, and from foreign countries, just for the pleasure of looking in her face and hearing her voice. They wrote to her, too, from all over the world. Many merely asked for her autograph; but there were others who asked

and expected strange things. She always *tried* to answer every letter, to send her autograph to every man, woman and child who asked for it; but as she grew older and less strong, she could not keep up with the flood of requests that poured in upon her. As it was, I suppose she wrote more letters in a year than many people do their whole lives long.

She never seemed to be in haste; the habit of work was so strong in her that she could work rapidly and quietly. She knew what to say and how to say it; and so her words were never wasted, and there were never too many of them.

She kept up her studies, reading Greek every morning; holding fast to the ancient wisdom, and yet keeping abreast of all the new thought, and welcoming new light wherever it shone. She loved to visit schools and talk to the children; some children who read these words may have seen and heard her, and they will never forget it, I am sure. Hundreds of children wrote to her, and she answered their letters whenever it was possible for her to do so. On her ninetieth birthday she received a letter

from an old gentleman in New York, reminding her how, nearly seventy years before, she had picked him up, a little orphan boy, five years old, and had found a home for him in the Orphan Asylum. She was a young girl then; she had done the kind deed and forgotten it; but he had never forgotten.

Some of her best poems were written during the last ten years of her life; several of them when she was over ninety years old; and she did not cease writing till the very end.

In her later years a pleasant and graceful custom grew up in Boston, the city she loved so well, and spread to other cities. When she entered a theatre or hall, the audience would rise unbidden to their feet, and remain standing till she had taken her seat. This never failed to surprise her, for she was as modest as she was beloved.

She had grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and was never happier than when she could gather them round her. Never was such a wonderful and delightful grandmother seen; or so they thought. She was as ready to

play with them as to talk of high and grave matters with the wise and good men and women who came from afar to see her; and she loved to sit down at the piano and play and sing for them the nursery rhymes which she had set to music. It was for her grandchildren that she made up the wonderful story of Flibbertigibbet, the naughty imp who came down the chimney and set the whole village by the ears. It was a musical story, and she always told it seated at the piano. Music and words were all her own, and when she played the jig, every-one wanted to dance, just like the people in the story. She was as full of fun as she was of wisdom and goodness, and there was no other fun like hers.

So the long golden afternoon passed, and evening came. She died on the eleventh day of October, 1910.

The lives of husband and wife together had covered more than a century.

You have seen, when the sun has set in a clear sky, how the light lingers, first in the west, then broadening and brightening over hill and dale, till all the world is bathed in

golden glory? So the light of these two lives, and of other good and great lives, may shine for you and for me, brightening the path before us and helping us on our way.

THE END.

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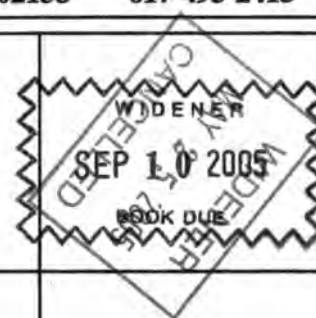


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